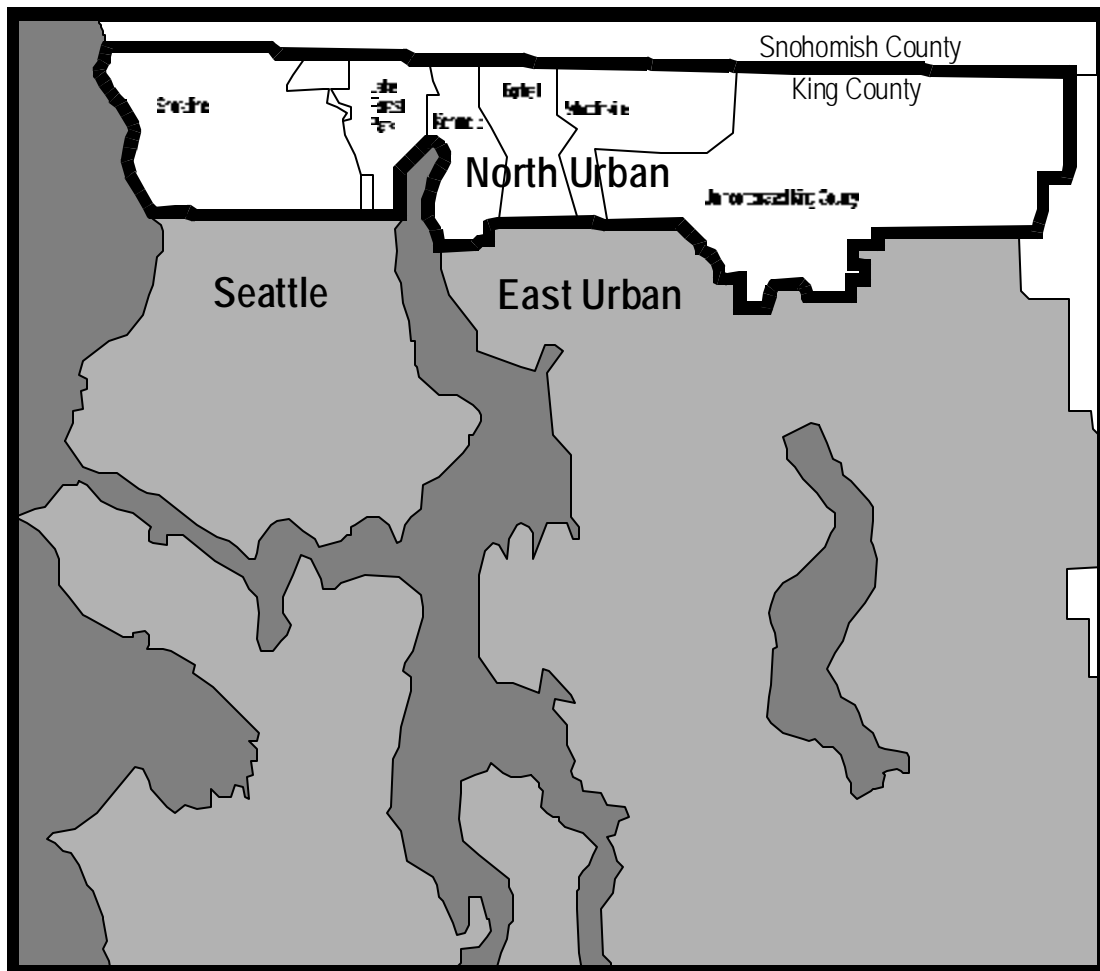


King County
CSD Strategic Plan
Subregional Planning
August 2000

Results from the North Urban Subregion



Strengths and Needs: An Assessment of Housing and Human Services in King County's North Urban Subregion

(King County Communities within the Northshore and Shoreline School Districts)

A community-based planning project sponsored by:

King County Department of Community and Human Services
Community Services Division

and

North Urban Human Services Alliance

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Executive Summary - North Urban

According to 1999 population estimates, 175,000 people live in the North Urban subregion. About 106,000 people live in incorporated cities the remainder live in unincorporated areas. The population has increased 37% since 1980. The total population is about 9% of the population of King County and encompasses the cities of Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville, and small adjacent unincorporated areas. North Urban has two school districts, Shoreline and Northshore, with a combined enrollment of 30,259 students. There are five, the largest being Shoreline at just over 52,000 and the smallest Woodinville at just over 10,000.

Two small areas, part of the current Bothell and the Lake Forest Park neighborhoods have been incorporated cities for many years. They were surrounded by large areas of unincorporated King County, or under-populated areas of Snohomish County. This has changed, particularly in the past five years with the incorporation and annexation of nearly the entire area from east of Woodinville to Puget Sound and rapid population growth north of the county line in Snohomish County.

New cities have formed including Woodinville, Kenmore and Shoreline, all incorporated within the past seven years. Of these, only Woodinville has any significant area zoned for commercial or industrial use that has the potential for providing an adequate tax base necessary to provide the services cities traditionally provide residents. This would include funding for human services residents often require. Shoreline and Lake Forest Park are almost exclusively made up of residential areas. The North Urban subregion also includes rural unincorporated areas east of Woodinville and North of Bothell. Parts of the Northshore School District lie in south Snohomish County and have been excluded for the purpose of this report.

The North Urban Area has a limited human service infrastructure, and is working to develop a regional sense of community. There are few non-profits service providers located in the area. The public transportation system is inadequate to get clients to services particularly if they need to travel to services on the Eastside. Of the 68 agencies receiving United Way funding that reported providing services to North Urban residents in 1996-97, only 12 have local sites or regularly deliver services out of a site in the North Urban subregion. This makes access to such services dependent on the client having a car or adequate public transportation. Several collaborative groups are working to strengthen local service availability.

The North Urban Human Services Alliance (NUSHA) was formed in partnership with United Way of King County in n 1998 to bring together local human service providers and funders and other interested community members. Its purpose is to provide a regional network for planning and advocacy around common human service issues.

The Northshore/Shoreline Community Network was formed in 1994 and actively brings together community based constituencies who are charged with addressing and preventing youth and family violence. The Network provides limited program funding targeted at reducing domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, youth violence, out of home placements for youth 0-18 and their families living in the North Urban subregion.

The United Way North Community Council was formed in the spring of 1998 and has done a significant amount of localized needs assessment. Through it's Venture Fund process, United Way has provided additional resources to assist the communities in addressing health and human service needs.

The Subregional Planning process started in the Spring of 1999 as a result of the King County's Strategic Plan process which examined the North Urban subregion in terms of human services. The scope of the planning process was to conduct a needs assessment for the subregion, identify human service needs and priorities and to identify strategies to address those needs.

The methodology included a resident phone survey, key informant interviews, review of existing needs assessments and collecting feedback from the NUHSA membership.

Through this process we were able to identify the following needs:

- ◆ Adequacy of funding
- ◆ Access to services
- ◆ Youth Services and Activities
- ◆ Basic needs/emergency shelter
- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Alcohol and Drug Interventions
- ◆ Accessible Dental and Health Care
- ◆ Affordable Housing
- ◆ Caregiving and Family Support

Each need is fully described in Appendix D of this document.

The needs were presented to the NUHSA membership along with proposed strategies to address these needs. The strategies are presented on page 15 of this document.

It is expected that this collaborative effort will help guide us through future subregion funding decisions.

I. Introduction

During the Spring of 1999, the Community Services Division (CSD), in cooperation with the North Urban Human Services Alliance (NUHSA) initiated a subregional planning effort in the North Urban subregion to identify the particular strengths and needs of their communities in the area of housing and human services. This report will describe the process and present the results of this planning effort incorporating county areas within the school districts of Northshore and Shoreline (excluding areas of Northshore located in Snohomish County) which we will refer to as the 'North Urban' subregion throughout this report.* This was a multi-stage process which involved a thorough assessment of local housing and human service strengths and needs, solicitation of possible strategic responses to meet those needs, and consideration of available resources with the ultimate goal of the development of specific, effective intervention strategies.

This document summarizes the results of the assessment phase of the subregional planning process including findings from a review of existing planning documents, telephone needs assessment survey, key informant interviews, and NUHSA meetings to discuss the findings. The input for this report comes from residents, providers, and community leaders, and is designed primarily for their use. This document is intended to provide an overview of human, housing and health service concerns in the North Urban subregion. King County and NUHSA (working with United Way of King County) may have roles as partners, funders, leaders, and/or advocates in supporting the priority actions. Based on the information gathered for this report King County Community Services Division (CSD) and NUHSA developed statements of priority needs for the subregion, some common statements of direction, investment priorities for resources, and efforts required to meet those needs. This report presents these statements for stakeholders to review.

How this project came about

King County Community Services Division, United Way North Community Council and the North Urban Human Services Alliance initiated a human services and housing planning project in the North Urban subregion for several reasons. In its broadest sense, the project's goal is to forge and maintain strong, effective human service partnerships within and among North Urban communities to ensure that there is a successful service delivery system. Of equal importance is to identify service gaps and local needs so that programs and funds are targeted to the highest priority needs. The North Urban subregion up until this point has not achieved an identity of its own with human service funders and many service providers. It is hoped this project will more clearly delineate the area and its needs for future financial investments from the county, state and local funders.

* Please note: This is the fourth in a series of five reports based on the seven subregions within King County. The seven subregions are: Seattle, North Urban, East Urban, East Rural, South Urban, South Rural, and Vashon Island. These subregions were based on combinations of school districts. This planning effort began with the test subregion of East Urban, followed by the Rural subregions of the East, South and Vashon Island and Seattle. Efforts in North Urban and South Urban have been concurrent. To request of a copy of a report for the East Urban, Rural or Seattle subregions please contact Maria Ramirez at (206) 296-8679 or send an email to maria.ramirez@metrokc.gov.

North Urban Human Services Alliance (NUHSA)

The North Urban Human Services Alliance was formed in September 1998 to build the community's capacity to respond to human service needs. Its membership is composed of human service providers, advocates, city and school district representatives, United Way, County representatives, Community Network members and interested citizens. NUHSA provides a forum for community education, advocacy, and collaboration to create new resources and enhance existing services.

Community Services Division (CSD)

The subregional planning effort began in February 1997 when CSD's Strategic Plan was approved by the Metropolitan King County Council. A major focus of the Plan was to use information on subregional needs and priorities to improve service responsiveness. Other goals of this effort were to forge and maintain strong, effective, human service partnerships with local communities. The results of these efforts have guided our investment decisions to high priority, locally identified needs. Results of this planning effort have also been used in the development of the Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan and other reports.

United Way

United Way of King County began more formal work in the North Urban Area in the winter of 1998 with the assignment of a full time Community Affairs Manager to the North Urban area. At that time there was virtually no area specific data. A needs assessment was done during the time the North Urban Community Council was formed. The needs assessment was used as a springboard for this document. Since 1998, health and human service agencies, King County Public Health, King County Community Services Division, the Northshore/Shoreline Community Network and United Way have begun to gather data reflecting needs and services unique to the North Urban region. The region had long been considered part of the Eastside or North Seattle which has created a significant lack of locally based services to meet human service needs for residents of this area.

II. The Process

Information about the housing and human service strengths and needs of King County's North Urban communities was gathered from a variety of sources, both new and existing. We reached residents, community leaders, human service providers, religious leader, executive directors, and others.

Telephone Survey

King County Community Services Division commissioned a telephone survey, conducted by the professional interviewing staff of Market Data Research, to gather information on residents' perceptions of human service issues. Between August 24 and September 28, a total of 404 north urban residents completed the interview, yielding results with statistical precision of plus or minus 2.8 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. The survey asked respondents to assess the extent to which they perceived certain issues as problems in their community, and also about problems experienced directly by the household itself. Highlights are included in Appendix A.

Key Informant Interviews

The NUHSA planning workgroup conducted interviews with 18 individuals. They included community leaders, housing and human service providers, and executive directors. Interviews included questions about the perceived strengths of the community, the most critical human service issues facing the community, and unmet needs. A list of key informants with whom we spoke is included as Appendix B.

Review of Existing Documents and Plans

In recent years, numerous human service planning efforts have taken place in the County or region, usually focused on a particular population or issue. Customarily the area being studied included parts of what is now known as the North Urban Area but few defined the boundaries in the same way the region is now defined. This makes using the information from the studies difficult to apply directly to the current situation. These earlier studies included focus groups, youth summits, school district planning, health and safety network plans, senior forums, domestic violence planning, economic summits, health care needs assessments, and more. In order to build upon and integrate this important work, we gathered and reviewed the needs and recommendations identified in these documents. A list of documents reviewed is included in Appendix C.

Community Facility Needs Survey

King County Community Services Division staff conducted a survey of community facility needs. The purpose of the survey was to determine the scope of facility needs which are eligible for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

NUHSA Membership Meetings

During this process we went back to the general membership of NUHSA. The first time was when all the raw data had been collected and the priority needs were drafted by the workgroup. The NUHSA members had an opportunity to review the list of needs and to add to the list of needs. The NUHSA members also provided input into the development of strategies to address those needs.

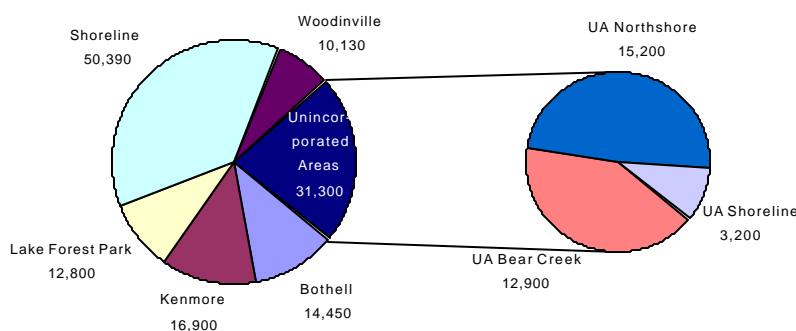
Other Indicators of Needs and Trends

Other data was gathered to provide a more detailed picture of the North Urban subregion's demographic makeup, its housing market, extent of subsidized housing, and indicators of demand for assistance (e.g., use of free and reduced school lunches, vacancy & rental rates, population and other data).

III. A Profile of the North Urban Subregion

Presented on the following pages are some of the population and housing data for King County's North Urban subregion. They present a limited overview of residents living in this subregion. The data have been compiled from existing sources, including the 1990 Census, the State's Department of Social and Health Services, the State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and King County's 1998 Annual Growth Report.

Unincorporated vs. Incorporated Population in North Urban Subregions



School District Demographics by School District 1998-99

Ethnicity	Northshore	Shoreline	Total King County
Black	1.8%	4.2%	9.3%
Asian	7.5%	16.9%	14.0%
Indian	.9%	1.1%	1.7%
Hispanic	3.6%	3.4%	5.7%
White	86.2%	74.5%	69.3%

Sources: Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

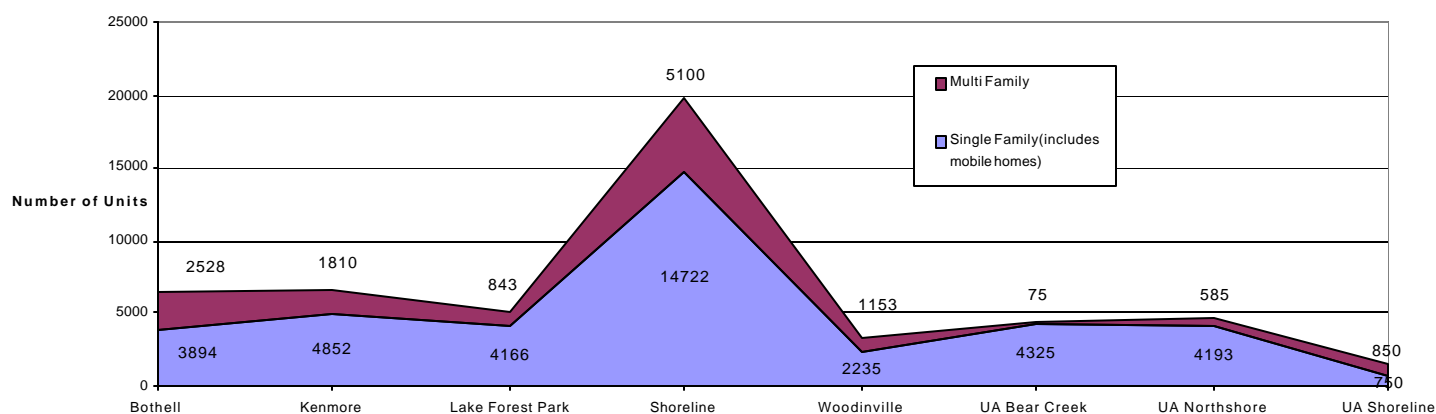
Percentage of Population over 75

	Northshore	Shoreline
1998 Population over 75	5.8%	8.7%

Average Annual Teen Birth Rates; 15-17 Year Olds, 1995-97

	Northshore	Shoreline	Total King County
1995 - 1997 Births per 1000	9.0	11.8	18.1

Existing Housing Units, 1997



Apartment Vacancy Rates and Rent Levels for Selected Areas, Spring 1999

Area	Bothell	Shoreline	Woodinville Totem Lake	Total King County
Vacancy Rate	4.1%	3.6%	3.6%	3.9%
Average Rent	\$786	\$711	\$836	\$747
One BR Rent	\$676	\$626	\$709	\$654
Two BR/1 Bath Rent	\$780	\$741	\$773	\$732

IV. The Profile of Strengths and Needs of the North Urban Subregion

Strengths of the Communities of the North Urban Subregion

Through both the key informant interviews and the phone survey a picture of the strengths of the North Urban communities emerged. North Urban informants saw the education system and schools as a very high strength (67% of the informants mentioned it), as well as strong citizen involvement/strong community (62%). When asked if their community was an excellent place to live, 49% of the respondents in the telephone survey replied yes.

Education and Civic Institutions

Schools

“Shoreline School District—unified & strong”

“Strong School District—high achievement, families come here for school districts. (Northshore School District)”

“People who are concerned about getting a good education for their children.”

Communities that Contribute

Citizen Involvement

“People are interested in the community to shape it and make it better. Young community—room for growth and change.”

“Devoted volunteer base”

Community Groups

“Strong citizen involvement”

“Lots of individual passion and volunteering”

Strong Human Services Community

“Good social services organizations”

“High commitment of non-profit social service agencies”

Natural Environment/Green

“Parks”

“Pleasing physical environment”

“Healthy environment”

Community Cohesiveness

Locally based government

“Strong politicians”

“Good city government”

“Good County Council representation”

Collaborative Agencies

“Good communication between community resources.”

Needs and Challenges

Broad Range of Needs Identified

This report does not attempt to provide a comprehensive listing of every human or social service need in the North Urban subregion. Instead, we focus primarily on identifying the areas of housing and human service concerns. Listed below are the top ten needs mentioned by respondents to the telephone survey and the key informant interviews.

<i>Identified Housing, Health or Human Service Need</i>	<i>Ranking in Telephone Survey</i>	<i>Top Human Service Issues in Key Informant Interview</i>	<i>Top Health Care Issues in Key Informant Interview</i>	<i>Top Housing Issues in Key Informant Interviews</i>
Traffic/Congestion	1			
Lack of Affordable Housing	2			1
Over Population-Growth	3			2
Lack-Affordable Medical Care	4		2	
Inadequate Public Transportation	5	5	3	
Jobs that Pay Enough	6			
Lack-Affordable Dental Care	7		2	
Drug Abuse	8	6		
Alcoholism	9	6		
Lack of Parenting Skills	10			
Lack of Affordable Child Care	11	3		
Lack of Rec Facilities/Progs	12			
Lack of Youth Activities	13			
Teenage Pregnancy	14			
Lack of Housing/Maintenance & Support for Seniors	15			3
Lack of Funding to Support Human Services		2		
Crime Rate/Violence/Abuse		4		
Service Collaboration		3		
Emergency Shelter/Basic Needs		1		
Culturally Appropriate Services		5		
Awareness of Services		3		
Youth Services		4		
Accessibility to Services			1	
Lack of Clinics			8	
Lack of Coverage/Insurance			5	
Lack of Specific Type of Treatment			4	
Lack of Dental Care			6	
Managed Care Problems			7	

Based on the survey, key informant interviews, review of other plans and needs assessments and a meeting of the NUHSA membership, the following nine areas were defined to be the prioritized needs and concerns of the North Urban subregion:

Adequacy of funding	The ability of local funders, both public and private, to respond in concert to human service demands is critical to efficient and effective use of resources.
Access to services	The provision of human services is meaningless unless people can access those services.
Youth Services and Activities	It is generally acknowledged there is a significant lack of activities and programs for teens, particularly in the Northshore Area.
Basic needs/emergency shelter	Though there are organizations in place to provide people with basic, emergency human service needs, these organizations have limited capacity to devote time and energy to developing a coordinated system of services.
Domestic Violence	A sufficient and coordinated service response system is critical to the safety of victims, treatment of offenders, and stopping the continuation of domestic violence for future generations.
Alcohol and Drug Interventions	While much of the community is beginning to realize the devastation caused by alcohol and drug use; abuse, violence, increased health care costs, family dysfunction, youth and their parents still strongly deny the seriousness of the problem.
Accessible Dental and Health Care	The most frequently identified factors related to accessibility, were affordability, lack of insurance and transportation.
Affordable Housing	According to Seattle Times reports, rents are continuing to rise at a rapid rate in the North Urban subregion...this combined with a relatively low vacancy rate is forcing some residents elsewhere.
Caregiving and Family Support	Looking at statistical information from Child Care Resources and listening to the anecdotal stories told by case managers working with Welfare to Work families, the extent of the need for quality childcare and family support is clearly evident.

A profile describing the indication of need, barriers and services currently available, can be found in Appendix D.

VI. Investment Priorities

On the table that follows, each priority need is listed with associated strategies drafted by the NUHSA workgroup, and reviewed, revised and prioritized by the NUHSA membership.

North Urban Human Services Priorities

<i>Community Goal</i>	<i>Investment Priority</i>	<i>Strategies</i>
All Community Goals	Access to Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Decrease language and cultural barriers 	
All Community Goals	Adequacy of Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the coordination of funding streams for human services. • Increase the number of services and providers that are based in the North Urban subregion rather than in Seattle, South Snohomish County and other parts of the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach United Way for an increased share of allocations. • Convene meeting with DSHS to discuss means to improve service access across city/county boundaries and at reasonable locations and times.
Supportive Relationships within families, communities, and neighborhoods	Youth Communities Services/Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the availability and accessibility of affordable youth activities and involvement opportunities. • Provide educational and informative health and wellness programs designed specifically for youth.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene meetings of community leaders and government officials in each school district to prioritize youth issues. • Convene meeting of facilities owners and service providers to consider ways of increasing youth activities at facilities. • Open up libraries and gym in Northshore Junior High and High Schools. Contract with YMCA, etc. to provide services. Youth plan and design programs.
Supportive Relationships within families, communities, and neighborhoods	Caregiving and Family Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality, location, and affordability of child care for low income families. • Expand the family support services for families with young children. • Increase local supports for elderly in their own homes and for family caregivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand opportunities to increase the before and after school care options for local families. • Work with Hopelink to encourage the expansion of family support work as part of the outreach at the Bothell Food Bank.
Food to eat and a roof overhead	Emergency Shelter/Basic Needs Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase capacity in emergency housing for all populations. • Increase capacity of transitional housing and transitional living programs. • Increase publicly funded housing in the Northshore School District. • Increase access to emergency food services in the Shoreline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand food bank services (locations and hours) and implement hot meal program.

	<p>School District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase availability of emergency utility and rental assistance. • Increase coordination of basic needs services. 	
Health care to be as physically and mentally fit as possible	<p>Alcohol & Drug Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness of specific issues and service needs. • Address lack of concern and response to substance abuse issues. • Identify best practices to determine the potential of existing and new services to be successful. • Decrease community availability of drugs & alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate parents about role in teen alcohol and drug use to address mixed messages. • Increase availability of training for youth in coping skills, social skills development, well being and refusal. • Work to change accepting community attitudes towards drug and alcohol use
A safe haven from all forms of violence and abuse	<p>Domestic Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the availability and accessibility of domestic violence community and emergency services.. • Identify options for providing support services to victims and their children including access to employment, transitional and permanent housing, skills training and education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create interdisciplinary collaboration among service providers, police and fire departments to find solutions to barriers facing DV victims. • Support culturally relevant prevention programs in the community.
Food to eat and a roof overhead	<p>Affordable Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain stock of low-income rental housing. • Increase the stock of affordable housing. • Encourage and support home ownership opportunities for low-income and working poor. • Preserve and increase housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene developers, County, non-profits, cities, churches to develop strategy.
Health care to be as physically and mentally fit as possible	<p>Accessible Dental and Health Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the availability of affordable dental and health care for low income, uninsured and medicaid populations. • Provide affordable and accessible health care specifically for youth including mental health, chemical dependency and dental services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a group of local stakeholders to identify ways to a) make existing services more accessible for both medical and dental care, b) expand provider base and services located within the subregion.

